GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1960
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2001
PROVISION OF SEPARATE BEDS FOR HIV PATIENTS
DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether special and separate beds are being made available for HIV patients in Railway Hospitals;

(b) if not, the protection the railways are likely to be taken for this;

(c) whether HIV treatments are made available in Central Railways Hospital at Kalyan near Mumbai;

(d) if so, whether 699 patients out of 1000 admitted found to have HIV positive;

(e) whether there is any awareness campaign programme for HIV-AIDS in Railways; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL)

(a) No discrimination is made against HIV positive persons. They are admitted in the hospitals and treated like any other patients. Thus it may be mentioned that there are no special and separate beds for HIV positive patients in Railway Hospitals.

(b) Railways are taking universal aseptic precautions, scrupulous screening of blood and blood products, disposal of hospital wastes in a hygienic manner etc. Medical and para-medical staff strictly observes precautions.

(c) Kalyan hospital is a divisional hospital and as per National AIDS Control Organisation(NACO) guidelines, anti-retroviral drugs area not administered in this country. However, they are treated for opportunistic infections as per the needs in conformity with NACO guidelines.

(d) No Sir. Persons admitted in the hospitals are not tested for HIV in a routine manner and no such study was done.

(e) There is a continuous programme for building up and sustaining awareness among railway population. Railways are one of the first organisations to start such a campaign.

(f) Training programmes for medical offices, para-medicals, public, affected persons, their family members is a continuous programme and is being continued as per NACO guidelines in all Railway Zones.